



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 29, 2002

H.R. 3925 **Digital Tech Corps Act of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary
on March 20, 2002*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3925 would cost less than \$500,000, subject to the appropriation of the necessary funds. These amounts include administrative and reporting costs for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the General Accounting Office (GAO). Enacting the bill could also increase the collections of civil and criminal fines, but CBO estimates that any increase would not be significant. Because the bill could affect direct spending and receipts (civil and criminal fines), pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The District of Columbia could benefit from provisions of the bill that would authorize employees in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to be assigned to a private-sector organization or an employee of such organization to be assigned to the Office.

H.R. 3925 would establish an exchange program between the federal government and the private sector to promote information technology management. The bill would allow the exchange of employees for up to two years between the public and private sectors to share information management talent and expertise. Private-sector employers could be reimbursed for all or part of the cost of their employees' assignment with the federal government. Alternatively, H.R. 3925 would allow for federal agencies to accept voluntary employment services from the private sector.

A recent report by the GAO indicates that the demand for qualified information technology workers will exceed the supply, hence it is unlikely that private-sector employers will be willing to part with many such employees for extended periods. Any exchange of employees that involves reimbursement to the private sector would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds for salary, training, and educational expenses.

Violations of the provisions of H.R. 3925 could be subject to civil and criminal fines, so the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of civil fines are recorded as receipts and deposited into the general fund of the Treasury. Criminal fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO expects that any additional receipts or direct spending would be less than \$500,000 each year.

On March 18, 2002, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 3925 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on March 14, 2002. The two estimates differ because the Judiciary Committee's version of H.R. 3925 would place additional reporting requirements on OPM and GAO, and because it would impose new civil and criminal penalties.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs), and Susan Sieg Tompkins (for the state and local impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis Division.